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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. ASAD'S VISIT TO MOSCOW

COMMENTING ON ASAD'S TALKS WITH THE SOVIETS, THE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY COUNSELOR TOLD EMBASSY MOSCOW:

--HE "SUSPECTED" THE SOVIETS AND SYRIANS WERE ATTEMPTING TO BUILD UP A STRONGER BARGAINING POSITION FOR NEW NEGOTIATIONS, INCLUDING MORE ARMS FOR SYRIA TO COUNTER NEW US SHIPMENTS TO ISRAEL.

--THE SOVIETS PROBABLY WANTED A REPORT ON KHAFDAM'S TALKS WITH THE SECRETARY, SO THAT GROMYKO WOULD HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO THE SECRETARY ON THE MIDDLE EAST WHEN THEY NEXT MEET.

THE OFFICIAL ADDED THAT THE RESULTING SHORT COMMUNIQUE
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PROBABLY SIGNIFIED THAT THE TWO SIDES EITHER DISAGREED OR

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HAD AGREED ON SOMETHING TOO IMPORTANT TO REVEAL PUBLICLY. (CONFIDENTIAL) MOSCOW 14595, 10/11.)

2. SPANISH SAHARA: SPAIN SEEKS A WAY OUT

THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SAHARA TOLD EMBASSY MADRID THAT IN HIS VIEW THE BEST SOLUTION FOR SPAIN IN RELINQUISHING CONTROL OF THE TERRITORY WOULD BE AN ICJ ADVISORY OPINION AND COMMITTEE OF 24 REPORT SUPPORTING MOROCCO'S POSITION. HE FURTHER COMMENTED THAT:

--THE CHANCES FOR HOSTILITY REMAIN, ALTHOUGH THE IMMINENT MOROCCAN THREAT APPEARS OVER.

--MOROCCO'S BELLICOSITY HAS FORCED SPAIN TO SECURE ITS MILITARY FLANK IN THE SAHARA AND ITS DIPLOMATIC POSITION IN THE UN BY OVERTURES TO THE ALGERIAN-SUPPORTED F. POLISARIO INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT.

--SPAIN IS PREPARED TO SUPERVISE A REFERENDUM IN THE SAHARA, WHICH WOULD PROBABLY FAVOR ASSOCIATION WITH MOROCCO.

ANOTHER SOURCE WITHIN THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE RECENTLY INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT THE INSTABILITY OF HASSAN'S REGIME AND THE KING'S PUBLIC CONTRADICTIONS OF PRIVATE STATEMENTS HAVE MADE SPAIN WARY OF DEALING WITH HIM. MOREOVER, SPAIN IS UNWILLING TO CROSS SWORDS WITH ALGERIA, A MAJOR GAS AND OIL PRODUCER WITH A MORE STABLE GOVERNMENT. (CONFIDENTIAL) MADRID 7067, 10/11.)

3. TORRIJOS URGES PATIENCE IN PANAMA CANAL NEGOTIATIONS

IN A MODERATE AND SOBER SPEECH ON OCTOBER 11, PRESIDENT TORRIJOS EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR NATIONAL UNITY IN THE FACE OF PANAMA'S CURRENT ECONOMIC AND FOREIGN POLICY DIFFICULTIES, AND POINTED OUT THAT IN THE CANAL NEGOTIATIONS PANAMA:

--WAS DEALING WITH A COLOSSUS THAT "SOMETIMES IS RATIONAL, SOMETIMES IRRATIONAL;"

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--WOULD NOT NEGOTIATE ON MILITARY BASES, BUT RATHER WOULD DISCUSS A CALENDAR FOR DISMANTLING THOSE BASES;

--WOULD RESPECT THE GAINS OF FOREIGN AND NATIVE WORKERS IN THE ZONE, BUT WOULD NOT TOLERATE WORKERS WHO MAINTAIN A FOREIGN JURISDICTION IS NECESSARY TO CONSERVE THOSE GAINS.

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EMBASSY COMMENT: TORRIJOS PREPARED HIS PEOPLE FOR NEGOTIATIONS THROUGH NEXT YEAR BY REFERENCES TO US ELECTIONS AND THE NECESSITY FOR A "GOOD TREATY," WHICH COULD ONLY BE ATTAINED THROUGH PATIENT BARGAINING. TORRIJOS' MENTION OF CANAL EMPLOYEES EVIDENCED HIS WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH THE US AND ALLAY THE FEARS OF AMERICANS IN THE ZONE. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) PANAMA 1268, 10/11.)

4. CHILE AFTER TWO YEARS

THE MILITARY JUNTA, WHICH CAME TO POWER WITH WIDE PUBLIC SUPPORT, HAS GOTTEN THE COUNTRY RUNNING AGAIN, REUTORED INTERNAL PEACE, ENDED THE EXAGGERATED POLITICAL MANEUVERING AND INTRIGUE CHARACTERISTIC OF THE ALLENDE YEARS, AND RETAINED AT LEAST ACQUIESCENCE OF THE PUBLIC. DESPITE ITS COMPETENT AND EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATION, HOWEVER:

--NO MANDATE FOR INSTITUTING A PERMANENT AUTHORITARIAN SYSTEM HAS EVOLVED.

--A SENSE OF UNEASA--STILL SHORT OF SIGNIFICANT DISCONTENT--IS EXTENDING INTO AREAS THAT ORIGINALLY GAVE STRONG SUPPORT TO THE JUNTA. THIS UNEASE STEMS LARGELY FROM SUCH ECONOMIC FACTORS AS HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT (ESTIMATED AT 20 PERCENT), ACCELERATING INFLATION AND DEPRESSED MANUFACTURING AND CONSTRUCTION.

--IN MORE RESTRICTED CIRCLES, CONTINUED IMPEDIMENTS TO THE EXERCISE OF CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS ARE ALSO CAUSING CONCERN.

EMBASSY OUTLOOK: WHILE THERE IS LITTLE REASON TO BELIEVE
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MAJOR CHANGES IN CHILE ARE IMMINENT, GROWING PRESSURES FOR CHANGE MAY SHOW AN IMPACT AS THE JUNTA REASSESSES ITS SITUATION AT THE BEGINNING OF 1976. (SECRET) SANTIAGO 6841, 10/10.) KISSINGER

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